

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 488

By Finney L

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Cornelia Tiller on the occasion of her eightieth birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating monumental occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Cornelia Tiller celebrated her eightieth birthday on April 18, 2009, a milestone which was commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, her birthday celebration was held in the cul-de-sac of her daughter, Suzie Alexander's neighborhood in Jackson; and

WHEREAS, possessed of an impenetrable *joie de vivre* and a tireless spirit for adventure, she arrived at her eightieth birthday celebration as the motorcycle passenger of her dear friend, Ed Jackson; and

WHEREAS, with guest and party goers in their sight, a neighbor backed out of their driveway and nearly collided with the motorcycle, causing Mr. Jackson to turn the motorcycle over, laying himself, Mrs. Tiller, and the motorcycle on the ground; and

WHEREAS, although Mr. Jackson suffered several broken ribs, a "smashed knee," and a broken leg, thanks to his quick thinking, Mrs. Tiller escaped with only a minor scrape on one hand; with her beautiful smile, sparkling eyes, and tremendous grace, she waved to the crowd reassuring everyone that she was fine; and

WHEREAS, with an estimated 100 guests and special friends in attendance, the birthday celebration got under way after the theatrical entrance of the motorcade; and

WHEREAS, well-wishers in attendance included among others, Jackson Mayor Jerry Gist and wife, Liz Gist; Madison County Mayor Jimmy Harris and wife, Loni Harris; Federal Magistrate Judge Ed Bryant and wife, Cyndy Bryant; Ray and Kakky Tanner; Ed and Marilyn

Jackson; Ron and Judy Pennel; Billy and Sally Slack; syndicated columnist and author, Rheta Grimsley Johnson; and Major Stanley Savage of the Atlanta Police Department; many of the party guests were grade school classmates of Mrs. Tiller as well; and

WHEREAS, refreshments were available under the cover of open-air garden tents and continued wall-to-wall in three rooms of her daughter's house; and

WHEREAS, confections made especially for Mrs. Tiller included strawberry cake by Sherry Freeman, hummingbird cake by Sally Slack, chocolate chocolate cake by Joanna Priester, sour cream pound cake by Kakky Tanner, and family coconut cake by Frankie Smith; Robyn Ryan's Elegant Confections and Custom Cakes provided carrot, chocolate, coconut and strawberry varieties as well; and

WHEREAS, the jazz band, Souled Out, made up of musicians from Lambuth University and Northside United Methodist Church, provided music for the guest and kept the party going for several hours; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Tiller's other daughter, Tillie Tiller, is a missionary in Chad, Africa, with the Evangelical Alliance for Missions and, unfortunately, was unable to attend the party; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of Roy Hall of Waldrop and Hall law firm on South Liberty Street, Mrs. Tiller grew up in Jackson; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from high school, she studied English literature at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida, where she met her beloved husband, Robert Tiller; and

WHEREAS, brought back to Jackson under the employ of Tigrett Industries, Mr. Tiller decided to stay in Jackson and open his own business when the manufacturer left town; and

WHEREAS, the happy couple also ran a travel agency and they were able to travel the world together for several years; and

WHEREAS, as an active and devoted member of All Saints Anglican Church, she is known for her solid Christian belief, her service and love, and her role as a reservoir of faith and outreach to the people of Jackson; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of her community who always works to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens, Mrs. Tiller has volunteered in several civic and

community organizations, including YMCA youth groups and regularly praying with female inmates; and

WHEREAS, in eight decades of living, Mrs. Tiller has gathered a rich trove of wisdom and life experience, making her a dear and valued asset to all those fortunate enough to enjoy her acquaintance; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Cornelia Tiller on the celebration of her eightieth birthday, congratulate her on this special occasion, and extend to her our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.